

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NEA-10 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 /094 W

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R 300445Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9984

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 2187

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO, NZ

SUBJECT: SEATO: NEW ZEALAND POSITION

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY. PM ROWLING HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT WINDING DOWN OF SEATO WON'T CAUSE HEARTBURN IN NZ AND THAT IF THIS HAPPENS HE THINKS MANILA PACT WOULD TEND TO BECOME DEFUNCT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE PRESS QUERIES JULY 38 PM ROWLING SAID HIS ADMINISTRATION HAD HAD CONSIDERABLE MISGIVINGS ABOUT SEATO AND A STRONG DISPOSITON TO OPT OUT, BUT HAD BEEN PREVAILED UPON BY "FRIENDS IN THE NORTH, INCLUDING COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NOW EXPRESSED SOME DISENCHANTMENT WITH SEATO, TO STAY IN."

3. REFERRING TO RECENT VISIT OF ASEAN SECRETARIES GENERAL TO NZ (WELLINGTON 2040 NOTAL), ROWLING SAID NZ CAN ACHIEVE MOST IF NOT ALL THE THINGS IT WANTS TO  
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ACHIEVE ON ECONOMIC SIDE THROUGH COOPERATION WITH

ASEAN WITHOUT CONTINUANCE OF SEATO. IF PHILIPPINES  
AND THAILAND ARE DISPOSED TO WINDING DOWN OF SEATO,  
THIS WON'T "CAUSE HEART BURNING" IN NZ.

4. ASKED IF NZ WOULD BE PREPARED TO REMAIN MEMBER OF  
MANILA PACT IF SEATO SECRETARIAT STRUCTURE WERE  
WOUND DOWN, ROWLING SAID HE THOUGH TREATY THEN WOULD  
TEND TO BECOME DEFUNCT BUT "IT IS RUNNING JUST A LITTLE  
BIT AHEAD OF THE PLAY TO SAY THAT."

5. ROWLING SAID ATTITUDE OF THAILAND AND PHILIPPINES  
SHOWS THEY ARE NOT INTIMIDATED BY DOMINO THEORY AND  
RECOGNIZE THE REGROUPING THAT'S OCCURRING OR HAS  
OCCURRED IN THE AREA. IT ALSO SHOWS "THEY NEED TO  
BE PART OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS ITS REAL  
STRENGTH IN THE AREA... AND NOT FEEL THAT THEY ARE  
PERIPHERAL MEMBERS OF SOMETHING... INFLUENCED BY TO A  
PRETTY CONSIDERABLE EXTENT COUNTRIES THAT ARE OUTSIDE  
THAT IMMEDIATE AREA."

6. (CONFIDENTIAL) IN CONVERSATION WITH ACTING DCM  
FOLLOWING ROWLING'S STATEMENT, HEAD OF MFA'S ASIAN  
DIVISION DESCRIBED AS CRITICAL FORTHCOMING SEATO  
COUNCIL MEETING. HE NOTED LACK OF PRECISION IN  
ANNOUNCED PHILIPPINE AND THAI POSITIONS AS WELL AS  
FACT THAILAND'S ONLY SECURITY TIE WITH US IS MANILA  
PACT. IN RESPONSE QUESTION, HE SAID NZ DOES NOT  
INTEND TAKE ANY INITIATIVE REGARDING SEATO BUT IF  
PHILIPPINES/THAILAND DON'T HE EXPECTS AUSTRALIA WILL,  
IN WHICH CASE GNZ WOULD BE OBLIGED TO FALL IN STEP.

7. ABOVE DRAFTED PRIOR RECEIPT STATE 179278, WHICH  
MOST TIMELY AND WILL BE USED TO RESPOND TO ASIAN  
DIVISION HEAD'S INQUIRY REGARDING US POSITION,  
PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO MANILA PACT.  
SELDEN

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